

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4507

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USUN NEW YORK 722

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 0634

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS SP

SUBJECT: MOROCCO DEMANDS RETURN OF SPANISH ENCLAVES

REF: RABAT 580 AND RABAT 604

1. MOROCCAN PERM REP SLAOUT'S JAN 29 LETTER ASKING THAT UN COMMITTEE ON DECOLONIALIZATION EXAMINE QUESTION OF CEUTA AND MELILLA ENCLAVES, ROCKS OF AL HOCEIMA AND VELEZ AND JAAFRINE ISLANDS WAS GIVEN SOLID PRESS PLAY OVER WEEKEND. OPPOSITION PRESS HAILED MOVE, NOTING THAT "PARTIAL SOLUTIONS" INADEQUATE. IN FEB. 1 EDITORIAL, ISTIQLALI ARABIC-LANGUAGE DAILY AL ALAM MADE UNCONVINCING EFFORT TO SHOW THAT CEUTA AND MELILLA WERE MORE MOROCCAN THAN GIBRALTAR WAS SPANISH.

2. ON FEB. 2, FON MIN LARAKI MADE PUBLIC STATEMENT REITERATING CALL FOR RETURN OF ENCLAVES, AL HOCEIMA AND VELEZ ROCKS, AND JAARAFINES, IN ADDITION TO SAHARA. (RABAT 604).

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3. SPANISH EMBASSY TELLS US IT GIVEN NO ADVANCE WORD ON NEW MOROCCAN DEPARTURE. PREDICTABLY, SPANISH SAY THAT MOVE ILL-TIMED IN TERMS OF PUBLIC OPINION IN SPAIN WHICH CURRENTLY HOLDS MOROCCO IN LOW REGARD.

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE NOT YET HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS INITIATIVE WITH MOROCCANS. OUR PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT IS THAT, WITH SAHARA QUESTION WANING AS RALLYING POINT FOR DOMESTIC PUBLIC OPINION NOW THAT MATTER REFERRED TO ICJ, KING AND REGIME MAY HAVE DECIDED TO WIDEN DEMANDS IN ORDER TO KEEP MOROCCAN ATTENTION FOCUSED ON WEIGHT OF "COLONIAL YOKE." WHILE IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW VIGOROUSLY MOROCCANS WILL FOLLOW UP ON THIS NEW FRONT, IMPORTANT POINT IS THAT ISSUE HAS NOW BEEN OFFICIALLY JOINED AND NEW DIMENSION FORMALLY ADDED TO MOROCCAN-SPANISH DISPUTE.

5. IN MAKING THEIR CASE, MOROCCANS WILL, OF COURSE, POINT OUT INHERENT ILLOGIC OF SUCH COLONIAL VESTIGES ON SOIL OF MODERN, SOVEREIGN STATE. SPAIN WILL NATURALLY ARGUE THAT POPULATIONS OF REGIONS IN QUESTION OVERWHELMINGLY SPANISH, AND WOULD UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES OPT FOR JOINING MOROCCO. LEAVING "APPEALS TO REASON" ASIDE, HOWEVER, OVERWHELMING FACT, AS SEEN FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT, IS THAT SPANISH PRESUMABLY HAVE NO INTENTION OF LEAVING ENCLAVES IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE, AND CAN NO DOUBT BE EXPECTED TO RESIST VIGOROUSLY ANY AND ALL FORMS OF MOROCCAN PRESSURE TO MAKE THEM DO SO (TANGIER A-11, 12/11/74).
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